

ACS Monthly newsletter

October 2016

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

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Message from the American Citizen Services Team

Greetings,

This newsletter is a public service for U.S. citizens in the Republic of Korea. Please feel free to share this newsletter with other U.S. citizens.

Visit us at our new [website](#) with all the latest updates and information.

If you've registered your stay in Korea through the STEP registration program but wish to unsubscribe to our emails, **you must log into the STEP program again, put a departure date, and close your registration.** You can find the 'subscribe/unsubscribe' link on the bottom of the page. <https://step.state.gov/step/>



Best wishes,

American Citizen Services Team | U.S. Embassy Seoul

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There's Still Time to Vote in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election



If you registered to vote but never received your absentee ballot, you can still submit a [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#). Just click on the link and follow the instructions!

Though some states' voter registration deadlines have passed, other states allow voters to register and obtain an absentee ballot up until the day of the general election. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure that overseas U.S. citizens have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world. Follow a few simple steps below to vote in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Step 1: Request Your Ballot

Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at www.FVAP.gov. The website will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature.

Step 2: Receive and Complete Your Ballot

For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

Step 3: Return Your Completed Ballot

Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically. If not, you can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, www.FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact the U.S. Embassy Seoul's Voting Assistance Officer at 02-397-4114 or at VOTEOUL@state.gov.

Remember, your vote counts!

Important New Requirements for Passport Applicants

The U.S. State Department issued two important updates to our passport application acceptance policies. Failure to observe these changes may cause delays in passport processing.

Social Security Numbers Required



Effective October 1, all U.S. citizens applying for a passport will be required to include their Social Security number on their application form. U.S. citizens who were never issued a Social Security number can apply for one along with the passport application or sign a sworn statement declaring that they have never applied for a number. To submit a first-time Social Security application, you will need to have one form of valid U.S. government-issued identification. You can find the SS-5 application and instructions at [this link](#).

If you have a number but do not remember it, contact the Social Security Administration (FBU.Manila@ssa.gov) BEFORE submitting your passport application. This new policy applies to routine passport services and will not prevent emergency travel to the United States.

NOTE: Applicants **without** an SSN will no longer be able to mail or courier their DS-82 (adult renewals) and DS-5504 (e.g. limited passport replacement) forms to the Embassy. Please make **an appointment** to be interviewed in person.

No Eyeglasses in Passport Photos



Effective November 1, we will no longer accept passport photos in which the applicant is wearing glasses. This applies to minors and adults. You do not need to replace your current passport if your photo includes eyeglasses. New passport applications submitted with photos that do not meet requirements could delay applications and interfere with travel plans.

Samsung Galaxy Note 7 Prohibition on Travel

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued an Emergency Prohibition effective October 15, 2016, mandating that no person may transport via air carrier any Samsung Galaxy Note 7 phone device due to serious safety concerns. The prohibition includes transportation of Samsung Galaxy Note 7 devices on the individual, in carry-on baggage, in checked baggage, or as cargo or mail. According to the Order, failure to comply could result in fines as high as \$179,933 and/or imprisonment of up to ten years.

More complete information is available at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2016-25322>.

Get Involved Helping Other U.S. Citizens as a Consular Warden

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul invites you to consider serving as a consular warden. The American Citizens' Services section enlists the aid of volunteer wardens who assist in disaster preparedness by alerting U.S. citizens to emergency situations and passing on information when needed. Wardens are also a valuable asset that can provide the embassy with key information, both about specific individuals and for situational awareness, from the local community or area. Traditionally, we rely on consular wardens to help communicate with U.S. citizens living or visiting abroad. Communication technology has improved greatly, but we still depend on consular wardens, particularly in emergency situations. Wardens also serve as important local points-of-contact for the Embassy and for U.S. citizens in Korea. We are very grateful to all who volunteer as consular wardens, and we appreciate their service to the community.

If you have contact with large numbers of U.S. citizens in your geographic region or organization and are interested in volunteering as a warden, please contact us at SeoulinfoACS@state.gov.

Young Men Could Lose Out On Jobs and Other Opportunities If Not Registered With Selective Service

Male U.S. citizens are required by law to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday, whether they live in the United States or not. If they do not register before they turn 26, they can permanently lose access to government-funded job training, thousands of government jobs, college loans, and the ability to renew their driver's license in most states. These opportunities are important for any young man.

Over the years, Selective Service has received feedback that young men who live overseas are one of the populations least likely to know about the Selective Service registration requirement. This may have severe consequences because there is a limited window for them to follow the law and register.

Selective Service registration differs for men living overseas because they can only register at the U.S. Embassy or [online](#), no local post office will be able to accept their registration.

It's critical that all young men understand exactly how the Selective Service registration requirement affects them. More information can be found at www.sss.gov.

Upcoming Outreach at USFK Installations



We offer passport, birth registration (Consular Report of Birth Abroad), and notarial services at USFK installations throughout Korea. Please note that you must have base access to attend these outreaches. Upcoming outreach events are below. Appointments are required for some services. For the most up-to-date information, visit our [outreach services page](#) on the U.S. Embassy website.

USAG Yongsan: Weekly on Wednesdays from 09:00-11:30 and 13:00-15:30
(Note: We will not offer Yongsan outreach on November 9 and 23.)

Camp Henry: December 1 (13:00-16:30) and December 2 (09:00-11:30)

Camp Casey: November 8, December 6 and January 10 (9:30-13:00)
(Email CampCaseyPassport@state.gov to schedule an appointment)

Osan AFB: November 1 and December 13 (10:00-11:30 and 13:00-15:00)

Embassy Closures in November

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on Friday, November 11 (Veterans' Day) and Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day). In addition to these dates, American Citizen Services will be closed for services on November 9 and 25.